

Dear Neighbor,

The legislature is in full swing. We are wading through hundreds of bills and working hard to craft a budget for the citizens of Connecticut. While passing a budget is one of the most important things we do in Hartford, oftentimes that overshadows smaller yet significant accomplishments for our community.

Make no mistake about it, securing large increases in state aid for our schools and towns, creating jobs, fighting to improve transportation and making health care more affordable are very important, and it takes up much of the time I spend in Hartford.

However, some of the work I am most proud of has a dramatic impact on our community. I would like to take a moment of your time to tell you about some of those things—grants and actions that help make Norwalk a better place to work, live and raise a family.

Once we have passed a budget, I will write again to share with you the details of how it affects our city. In the meantime, please contact me if I can be of any assistance. It is a pleasure to serve you in the Connecticut Senate.

Sincerely,



Bob Duff
Connecticut Senate



Your State Senator
BOB DUFF
DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

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FROM YOUR STATE SENATOR

BOB DUFF

Maritime Aquarium

The *Maritime Aquarium* is a mainstay of the community and the \$1.3 million bond authorization I helped secure and the additional money I wrote in the budget will help it to continue to offer educational programs and leisure activities for people of all ages. The aquarium's combination of education with recreation encourages everyone to learn more about the ecosystem around us. We now await the Bond Commission's approval of the grant.

Stepping Stones Museum

I helped secure a \$250,000 grant for the *Stepping Stones Museum for Children*. The money will be used to help launch a statewide health initiative, including a healthy body exhibit at Stepping Stones, a traveling education program for schools and other organizations that cannot make it to the museum, a statewide communications outreach initiative and several CPTV-produced health vignettes to be aired during the channel's daily youth programming.

New Foxboro Traffic Light

Working with the *Foxboro Condominium Association*, I secured a \$50,000 grant to install a traffic light at the intersection of Route 7 and Foxboro Drive. I had received numerous complaints concerning the safety of this intersection and fought hard for this last piece of funding to get the project off the ground.

Turning Arrows at Route 123/7 Intersection

I worked closely with the *Broad River Neighborhood Association* and the *Department of Transportation* to get a green arrow installed where Route 123 approaches Route 7. This has been a particularly dangerous intersection where many accidents have occurred, and I believe this new light will help make traveling through this section of Norwalk safer.

White Barn Theatre Property

Working with the *Norwalk Land Trust* and *Save Cranbury Association*, I helped obtain a \$450,000 open space grant for the purchase of the 18.4-acre property on which the White Barn Theatre is located. The beautiful property contains a pond, brooks, open fields, extensive wetlands and woodlands. I am continuing to work with our local partners and neighbors to save the property.

Norwalk Transit District–Shuttle Bus

I worked hard, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, to restore cuts for shuttle bus service from the South Norwalk Train Station to area businesses. This critical piece of funding ensures that more people utilize this popular means of getting to and from work, which reduces congestion on our overburdened roads.



Working with our community groups is always a wonderful experience. Together, we are making a difference, and I am overwhelmed at the grateful response to my efforts. I am honored and humbled that *The Save Cranbury Association*, *Broad River Neighborhood Association*, *Side By Side Community School* and the *Norwalk YMCA* took the time to recognize me for my efforts to help them to fulfill their mission. Truly, it is a team effort and I appreciate everyone's help to make Norwalk a better place for all of us.



Senator Duff and Senate President Pro Tempore Donald E. Williams, Jr. with Rhonda Kiest, executive director of the Stepping Stones Museum for Children in Norwalk. Senator Williams toured the museum with Bob and Rhonda and learned about the exciting new Healthy Children Healthy Communities exhibit.